IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (**Cancelled**).

11. (**Currently Amended**) A power transmission mechanism comprising a shaft and a hub, the power transmission mechanism further comprising:

a shaft tooth section formed on the shaft;

a hub tooth section formed on the hub; and**[[,]]**

a retaining ring, wherein the hub is axially secured relative to the shaft by the retaining ring in a position disposed around the shaft while holding the shaft tooth section and the hub tooth section in engagement with each other,

wherein said shaft tooth section has a straight peak having a constant tooth thickness and a valley having an outside diameter varying from an end of the shaft toward a shaft shank of the shaft, said valley having a step region sloped toward said hub tooth section obliquely at a predetermined angle, wherein a valley radius of said shaft tooth section representing a distance from a central axis of the shaft to a bottom land of said valley is constant from the step region to the end of the shaft; and

said hub tooth section has a straight peak opposing the step region of said shaft tooth section, and opposing and engaging said valley of said shaft tooth section, said peak of said hub tooth section having a constant tooth thickness and a valley, said peak of said hub tooth section has a constant inside diameter (ΦD3) which radially opposes the valley and step region of the shaft tooth section from the end of the shaft toward said shaft shank in an axial direction of the shaft.

12. (**Previously Presented**) A mechanism according to claim 11, wherein said step region has a tilt angle (θ) set to a value ranging from 5 degrees to 45 degrees.

Claims 13-17 (**Cancelled**).